

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00659 310330Z
ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7997

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0659

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EMO. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMGT PFOR
SUBJECT: ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT - PARTS II AND III

REF A STATE 038356, B VIENTIANE 0652

1. PART II - RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS

A. STATE

WITH A PERSONNEL CEILING IMPOSED BY THE HOST GOVERN-
MENT PERMITTING THREE OFFICERS, INCLUDING THE CHARGE'
D'AFFAIRES, ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST AND NINE OTHERS IN
THE ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICIAN CATEGORY, THE PRESENT
AUTHORIZED AMERICAN PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT OF ELEVEN
REQUIRES A TIGHTLY STRUCTURED, WELL-DISCIPLINED, AND
FLEXIBLE POST ORGANIZATION TO KEEP ATOP OF POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC REPORTING, REQUIRED CONSULAR SERVICES TO
THE SMALL NUMBER OF AMERICAN RESIDENTS AND VISITORS,
AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES IN A CITY WHERE SELF-
SUFFICIENCY ASSUMES GREAT IMPORTANCE. WE BELIEVE THAT
IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO AUTHORIZE
ONE ADDITIONAL AMERICAN POSITION AS AN ASSISTANT ADMIN-
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ISTRATIVE OFFICER TO PROVIDE BACKSTOPPING AND COVERAGE
AS KEY ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PROCEED ON LEAVE AND
OFFICIAL TRAVEL. ASSIGNMENT OF THIS OFFICER WOULD
STILL BE WITHIN THE CEILING IMPOSED BY THE HOST GOVERN-
MENT. WE SEE NO POSSIBILITY FOR RESTRUCTURING OUR
ORGANIZATION UNLESS PHYSICAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS
PERMIT. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE

THAT ONE-THIRD OF THE NINE MEMBER ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PERMITTED BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTLY UTILIZED IN THE ASSIGNMENT OF THREE PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS WHO DEVOTE FULL-TIME (IN FACT, WORKING A 60 HOURS WORKWEEK EACH) IN THIS ACTIVITY. ANY DECISION FOR LESSENING THE PHYSICAL SECURITY PROTECTIVE MEASURES AT THE POST MUST REST WITH WASHINGTON, BUT WITH EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES WE HAVE NO CHOICE AND MUST DEVOTE THIS MUCH OF OUR PERSONNEL RESOURCES TO SECURITY.

B. OTHER AGENCY PROGRAMS AND RESOURCE LEVELS.

THERE ARE NO OTHER AGENCY OPERATIONS AT THE POST AND WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

2. PART III - STATE PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. REPROGRAMMING.

WE CONSIDER THAT REPROGRAMMING WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONLY IF DEPARTMENT DECIDED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL SY AGENTS AT THE POST. (OUR ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO WASHINGTON REGARDING COMPOSITION OF OUR TWELVE MEMBER EMBASSY IMPOSED BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT CALLED FOR ONLY TWO SECURITY OFFICERS BEING ASSIGNED TO THE POST). THIS WOULD HAVE PERMITTED US ONE MORE SECRETARY. WE ARE NOW WITHOUT SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE WHEN THE CHARGE'S SECRETARY, WHO PROVIDES SECRETARIAL SERVICES TO ALL OTHER

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OFFICES, MUST GO ON ANNUAL OR SICK LEAVE.

B. INCREASES/DECREASES.

STAFF REDUCTION AND CLOSURE OF OTHER AGENCIES' OPERATIONS DURING FY 1977 WILL PERMIT A DECREASE IN FUNDING REQUIREMENTS. NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION SHOULD BE CORE UNLESS DEPARTMENT DECIDES THAT ALL FUNDING AND POSITIONS IN VIENTIANE, IN VIEW OF EXCLUSIVELY STATE OPERATION, SHOULD BE PROGRAM. WE EXPECT TO REDUCE LOCAL COMPLEMENT FURTHER BY ATTRITION AND NOT FILLING VACANT POSITIONS.

C. LOWER PRIORITY POSITIONS.

(THIS SECTION NOT APPLICABLE TO VIENTIANE.)

3. MISSION STAFFING CHART

CURRENT FY

AMER. AMER. FSL FSL

OFFS. STAFF PROFES. STAFF

AGENCY/FUNCTION

STATE

EXECUTIVE 1 1 1

POLITICAL 1 1

CONSULAR 1 1

ADMINISTRATIVE(CORE) 2 5 10 66

OTHER AGENCIES

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(1) USIA 1 8 6

(2) DOD 1 1 1

(3) MARINE GUARDS 6

PROJECTED FY 79

AGENCY/FUNCTION AMER. AMER. FSL FSL

OFFS. STAFF PROFES. STAFF

STATE

EXECUTIVE 1 1

POLITICAL 1 1

CONSULAR 1 1

ADMINISTRATIVE 3 5 8 58

FOOTNOTES:

(1) USIS CLOSED OPERATIONS FEBRUARY 4, 1977.

(2) DAO CLOSED OPERATIONS SEPTEMBER 29, 1976 BUT
EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF CONTINUED TO HANDLE
INTO FY 77 RESIDUAL MATTERS INVOLVING CLOSING.

(3) LAST MARINE GUARD DEPARTED LAOS MARCH 22, 1977.

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